

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER L.)

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF: CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER'S VISIT TO EAST TIMOR

1. SUMMARY: SUMMARY: DURING HEAVILY PROGRAMMED 24-HOUR VISIT TO FOUR EAST TIMOR POPULATION CENTERS, CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER AND PARTY WERE GREETED BY LARGE CROWDS AND HEARD LOCAL OFFICIALS EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION WITH INDONESIA, OBJECTIONS TO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (AUSTRALIAN IN PARTICULAR) AND DESIRE FOR US ASSISTANCE. REP MEYNER IN TURN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR LOCAL VIEWS AND HOPE TIMORESE WOULD SETTLE DIFFERENCES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN WAR. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER ACCOMPANIED BY GOVERNOR MEYNER, HIRC STAFF MEMBERS JON HOLSTINE AND JOHN SALZBERG, STATE DEPT'S ANN SWIFT AND EMBASSY POL COUNSELOR GARDNER VISITED VIQUEQUE, BAUCAU, BOBONARO, AND DILI EAST TIMOR APRIL 15-16. THEY WERE JOINED IN TIMOR BY TWO GOI FONDEPT OFFICIALS, EAST TIMOR DEPUTY GOVERNOR LOPES DA CRUZ AND FORMER UDT LEADERS MARIO CARRASCALEO AND DOMINGUS OLIVEIRA.
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AT ALL STOPS THEY WERE GREETED BY LARGE CROWDS WAVING INDONESIAN FLAGS AND PRO-INTEGRATION BANNERS, STUDENTS SINGING INDONESIAN PATRIOTIC SONGS AND SPEAR-BEARING TIMORESE DANCERS.

3. AT VIQUEQUE, LOCAL DISTRICT CHIEF STRESSED THAT TIMORESE WANT TO BE PART OF INDONESIA. NOTING THAT NO

ONE HAD COME TO AID OF VIQUEQUE PEOPLE WHEN THEY ROSE UP AGAINST PORTUGUESE IN 1959 TO DEMAND UNION WITH INDONESIA, DISTRICT CHIEF ASKED GROUP TO TELL OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO INTERFERE WITH INDONESIA'S TWENTY-SEVENTH PROVINCE. DEPUTY GOVERNOR DA CRUZ ELABORATED ON THESE THEMES, ASKING WHY OUTSIDE WORLD WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT TIMOR DURING 400 YEARS OF OPPRESSIVE PORTUGUESE RULE, NOW CRITICIZED ITS UNION WITH INDONESIA. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, A TIMORESE WOMAN AND LATER A MAN CLAIMED AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS DELEGATION HAD NOT ONLY FAILED TO GAIN RELEASE OF PRISONERS HELD BY FRETELIN BUT HAD ACTUALLY PROVIDED LATTER WITH ARMS USED TO KILL VIQUEQUE FAMILIES.

4. REP MEYNER EMPHASIZED THAT US APPRECIATED PAST STRUGGLE OF TIMORESE PEOPLE, HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN TIMOR'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAD OVER PAST MANY YEARS ASSISTED IN INDONESIA'S DEVELOPMENT. SHE SAID SHE WOULD SUPPORT EXTENSION OF THIS ASSISTANCE TO TIMOR. NOTING THAT THERE WERE OTHER TIMORESE WITH DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT AND THAT CLOSING DOOR TO NEGOTIATIONS HAD IN PAST HISTORY MEANT OPENING DOOR TO WAR, REP. MEYNER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RECENT PERIOD OF KILLINGS WOULD GIVE WAY TO ERA OF PEACEFUL PROSPERITY.

5. AT OVERNIGHT STOP IN BAUCAU, LOCAL OFFICIALS FOCUSED THEIR REMARKS PRINCIPALLY ON DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS LAUNCHED UNDER INDONESIAN ADMINISTRATION.

6. LOCAL DISTRICT CHIEF AT BOBONARO REJECTED ALLEGATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT INDONESIANS HAD KILLED TIMORESE PEOPLE. SINCE EAST TIMOR INTEGRATED WITH INDONESIA, IT HAD RECEIVED FAR MORE ASSISTANCE FROM GOI THAN FROM PORTUGUESE DURING ENTIRE COLONIAL PERIOD, HE SAID.

7. AT FINAL STOP AT PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF DILI, TIMOR GOVERNOR ARANJO OUTLINED AT LENGTH ALLEGED FRETELIN ATROCITIES, CLAIMING HE HAD PERSONALLY UNDERGONE WATER TORTURE. GOVERNOR ALSO LAUNCHED INTO DIATRIBE AGAINST JAMES DUNN, ALLEGING THAT DUNN HAD WITNESSED BUT HAD NOT REPEATED NOT REPORTED FRETELIN ATROCITIES.

8. ITINERARY WAS CLOSELY MANAGED BY INDONESIANS AND SO TIGHTLY SCHEDULED THAT THERE WAS NO FREE TIME FOR PRIVATE MEETINGS. HOWEVER, TIMORESE, WHO SEEM TO HOLD PRINCIPAL CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS AT ALL LEVELS, WERE HOSTS AND SPEAKERS ON ALL OCCASIONS. INDONESIAN MILITARY WERE ABOUT BUT IN LOW PROFILE, AND ARMED ESCORTS WERE USUALLY COMPOSED OF LOCAL MILITIA. LARGE AND SEEMINGLY ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS WERE

AMASSED AT ALL STOPS. WHILE MANY BUILDINGS IN DILI SHOWED EVIDENCE OF INTENSIVE SMALL ARMS FIRE, GROUP SAW NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF BOMBARDMENT BY HEAVY WEAPONS.

9. IMMEDIATELY AFTER RETURN TO JAKARTA, REP. MEYNER'S PARTY MET WITH ASST. CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE MAJ. GEN. MURDANI TO GIVE THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF TRIP AND POSE FURTHER QUESTIONS. ASKED TO DESCRIBE SECURITY SITUATION IN TIMOR, MURDANI SAID A NUMBER OF ARMED "GANGS" (INDONESIANS ARE NO LONGER USING TERM "FRETILIN", HE EXPLAINED) ARE HOLDING OUT IN MOUNTAINS. LARGEST GROUP OF SOME 80-150 MEMBERS OPERATES IN MOUNTAINOUS AREA BETWEEN BAUCAU AND VIQUEQUE. OTHER BANDS HAVE LESS THAN TEN MEMBERS AND ARE CAPABLE ONLY OF HARASSING ACTIONS SUCH AS AMBUSHES. MURDANI SAID HE HAD NO EVIDENCE TO BACK UP PRESS REPORTS THAT ARMS ARE BEING BROUGHT IN FROM OUTSIDE. MURDANI LIKEWISE NOTED THAT INDO-
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NESIANS COULD NOT SUBSTANTIATE TIMORESE ALLEGATIONS THAT AUSTRALIAN RELIEF TEAM HAD TURNED OVER ARMS PICKED UP EARLIER FROM ANTI-FRETILIN FORCES TO FRETILIN WHEN LATTER TOOK DILI. THIS ALLEGATION WAS, HOWEVER, WIDELY ACCEPTED AND RESENTED BY TIMORESE, AND FOR THIS REASON MURDANI FELT AUSTRALIANS SHOULD NOT VISIT EAST TIMOR. MURDANI AGREED TO CHECK LIST OF NAMES PRESENTED BY MR. SALZBERG OF FRETILIN ALLEGEDLY AWAITING EXECUTION. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT NO EXECUTIONS WERE CONTEMPLATED. ONLY FRETILIN IMPRISONED, HE EXPLAINED FURTHER, WERE THOSE CHARGED BY TIMORESE WITH SUCH CRIMES AS KILLING OR RAPING MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES. HE INDICATED THAT INDONESIANS CAREFULLY SCREENED SUCH CHARGES SINCE TIMORESE OFFICIALS "WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL FRETILIN IN PRISON."

10. CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER HAS SEEN AND APPROVED ABOVE REPORT EXCEPT FOR ACCOUNT OF MURDANI CONVERSATION (PARA 9), WRITTEN AFTER HER DEPARTURE.
NEWSOM

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